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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/529,637

03/31/2005

Hamed Aissaoui

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02/07/2007

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EXAMINER

VALENROD, YEVGENY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1621

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,637

Applicant(s)

AISSAOUI ET AL.

Examiner

Yevgeny Valenrod

Art Unit

1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19, 20 and 22-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19, 25 and 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 6, 15, 20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 7-14, 23 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/08/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I. Claims 1-15, 20 and 22-24, in the reply filed on 12/6/06 is acknowledged.

Claim 19, 25 and 26 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected subject matter, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12/06/06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. The second paragraph 35U.S.C. 112 requires that the claims particularly point out the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. A claim referring to the specification is improper except in rare instances. Ex parte Fressola, 27 USPQ2d 1608 (U.S. Pat. & Trademark Bd. App. & Int. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

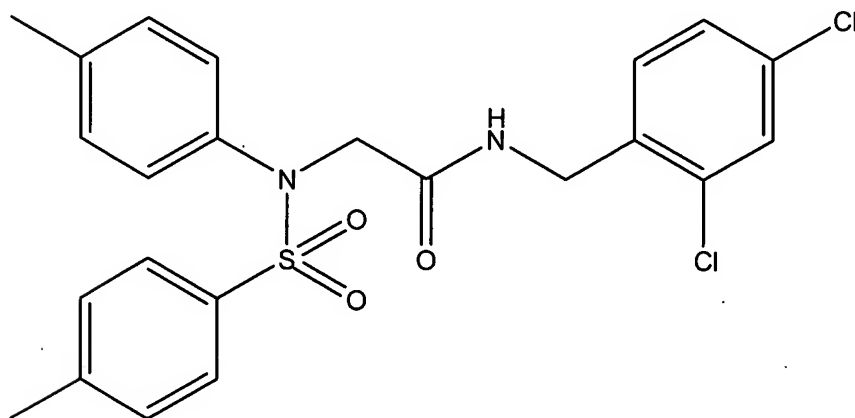
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 15 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quattropani et al. (US 2004/0072816).

Scope of prior art

On page 71 Quattropani et al. teach a compound of the following formula:



The above compound is one of the species of the generic compound of formula I in the reference.

On page 55, column 2, Quattropani et al. teach pharmaceutical formulation including their preparation.

Ascertaining the difference between prior art and the instant claims

The compound depicted above differs from the generic teaching of claim 1 in that the Nitrogen of the amide group in the instant claims has 2 alkyl substituents, while in the above compound there is a hydrogen atom instead of one of the alkyl groups. In addition, claims 5 and 6 are drawn to compounds where the phenyl group attached to the sulfur has a methyl substituent in the *meta* or *ortho* position. The above compound had the methyl substituent in the *para* position.

Obviousness

While the reference compound does not teach trisubstituted amide as required by the instant claim 1, it does teach equivalency between H and lower alkyl substitution in the position in question. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to prepare the compound with the amide is trisubstituted with one of the substituents being a lower alkyl group because the compounds are taught to have utility. The compounds taught by Quattropiani et al. have utility as therapeutic agents for various numerous diseases (see abstract), which provides motivation for one skilled in the art to prepare the said trisubstituted derivative as a medicament and expectation of success in doing so.

Concerning the positional isomers in claims 5 and 6:

Compounds that differ only in placement of substituents in a ring system are not patentable absent unexpected results. In re Jones, 162 F.2d 638, 74 USPQ 152 (CCPA 1947).

Claim Objections

Claim 2, 4, 7-14, 23 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Claims 1-15, 19, 20, 22-26 are pending.

Claims 19, 25 and 26 are withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 15, 20 and 22 are rejected.

Claims 3, 4, 7-14, 23 and 24 are objected to.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yevgeny Valenrod whose telephone number is 571-272-9049. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm M-F.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on 571-272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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